

Message Text

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ACTION DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-10 ISO-00 ORM-02 OMB-01 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /089 W

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R 111112Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4280

INFO AMCONSUL FRANKFURT

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 10984

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD FOR INFO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, PINS, IR, IZ

SUBJ: KURDISH REFUGEES

REFS:(A) GENEVA 8419,(B) STATE 263663,(C) TABRIZ 0059

1. EMBOFFS MET GOODYEAR AND TWO KURDISH REFUGEE LEADERS, SHAFIQ QAZZAZ AND MAHMUD MOHAMMED ABDUL-RAHMAN, NOV. 10 TO DISCUSS "MIGRATION AND REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES," AS GOODYEAR STYLED THE PROBLEM. UNHCR REP SPECIFICALLY CONFIRMED THAT HE SEES HIS ONLY ROLE AS FACILITATING MIGRATION OF KURDISH REFUGEES TO THIRD COUNTRIES. HE CONSIDERS REPATRIATION OF REFUGEES TO IRAQ AS PURELY IRANIAN MATTER INTO WHICH HE HAS NO MANDATE TO INQUIRE, AND IN ANY CASE AS A PROCESS NEARING COMPLETION. AS FOR RESETTLEMENT OF KURDISH REFUGEES WITHIN IRAN, HE SEES THIS AS RESPONSIBILITY OF RED
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LION AND SUN SOCIETY(RLSS), WHICH HE BELIEVES HAS

SUFFICIENT RESOURCES TO HANCLE JOB. IF RLSS NEEDS
TECHNICAL ADVICE IN SETTLING SOME 40,000 REFUGEES WHO
MAY EVENTUALLY STAY IN IRAN, UNHCR CAN ASSIST, BUT ONLY
UPON REQUEST OF GOI. RLSS HAS TOLD HIM ALL BUT THREE
REFUGEE CAMPS ARE NOW CLOSED, AND ALL BUT 15,000 RESIDENTS
OF THESE CAMPS HAVE NOW BEEN RESETTLED.

2. FROM MFA AND RLSS SOURCES IN TEHRAN, GOODYEAR UNDER-
STANDS KURDISH REFUGEES ARE BEING OFFICIALLY ENCOURAGED
TO RETURN TO IRAQ OR TO AGREE TO DISPERSAL IN SMALL
GROUPS WITHIN IRAN. FORCE IS NOT BEING USED TO SECURE
REPATRIATION, BUT WITHIN GREY AREA AROUND WORD "VOLUNTARY"
THERE IS A COMBINATION OF IRANIAN URGING AND REFUGEE
RESIGNATION TO FACT THAT THOSE WHO STAY IN IRAN WILL
HAVE TO BE SETTLED IN SMALL GROUPS SO AS TO INTEGRATE
INTO IRANIAN SOCIETY. SOME 25,000 HAVE BEEN RESETTLED
ON THESE TERMS. IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN THEIR KURDISHNESS,
MANY REFUGEES HAVE OPTED FOR RETURN TO IRAQ.

3. GOODYEAR DID NOT INDICATE THAT HE HAD BEEN ISTRUCTED
BY UNHCR GENEVA ABOUT CHECKING ON REPATRIATION PROCEDURES
PER REFTEL A.

4. BETWEEN GOODYEAR AND REFUGEE LEADERS QAZZAZ AND
ABDUL-RAHMAN, FOLLOWING PICTURE OF MIGRATION TO THIRD
COUNTRIES EMERGED:

NETHERLANDS: WILL TAKE 33 REFUGEES AND IS PREPARED TO
SEND REQUEST FOR LAISSEZ-PASSERS TO
IRANIAN MFA AS SOON AS APPROVAL FOR THIS
STEP IS RECIEVED FROM THE HAGUE.

AUSTRIA: A LIST OF THE 100 REFUGEES REGISTERED FOR
MOVEMENT TO AUSTRIA WAS SENT TO VIENNA
THREE WEEKS AGO AND A REPLY IS EXPECTED
SOON.

CANADA: CANADIAN EMBASSY IMMIGRATION OFFICER SIGURDSON
STATES THAT 50 FAMILIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AS
IMMIGRANTS IN REFUGEE STATUS. APPLICATION
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FORMS HAVE BEEN DISTRUBUTED AND CANADA WILL
ACCEPT RLSS PHYSICAL EXAMINATIONS, SUBJECT TO
APPROVAL OF IMMIGRATION OFFICER IN BEIRUT
(ASSUMING HE IS STILL FUNCTIONING). CANADIANS
HAVE CLEARED THEIR OFFER WITH IRAQIS IN BAGHDAD.

U.K.: KURDISH REFUGEES ARE BEING ACCEPTED IN A NEWLY-
RELAXED PROCEDURE AS SUFFICIENT BASIS FOR

EXISTENCE OF PREVIOUS TIE WITH THAT COUNTRY.

DENMARK AND SWEDEN: NO DECISION ABOUT ACCEPTING REFUGEES.

5. GOODYEAR REITERATED HIS BELIEF THAT US OUGHT TO ESTABLISH TEMPORARY OFFICE IN TEHRAN TO PROCESS REFUGEE CASES. HE NOTED OTHER COUNTRIES WILLING TO TAKE REFUGEES ARE ALL HANDLING CASES HERE. GOODYEAR HAS TENTATIVE OFFER FROM RLSS TO ASSIST BOTH THE TRAVEL OF REFUGEES TO TEHRAN FOR PROCESSING AND TRAVEL OUT OF IRAN. HE POINTED OUT THAT IF IRANIANS COULD FLY REFUGEES APPROVED FOR ENTRANCE TO US DIRECTLY TO NEW YORK, THIS WOULD DECREASE COST OF MOVEMENT PAID BY SPONSORING GROUP. (IF CASES WERE PROCESSED IN EUROPE, IRAN WOULD OBVIOUSLY NOT PAY EUROPE-TO-US TRAVEL.) EMBOFFS NOTED QUESTION OF THIRD-COUNTRY PROCESSING STILL BEING DISCUSSED IN US AFTER UNHCR GENEVA SUPPORTED GOODYEAR'S VIEW(PARA 4, REFTEL A).

6. ABDUL-RAHMAN AND QAZZAZ STRESSED POOR SITUATION OF KURDISH REFUGEES REMAINING IRAN WHO ARE BEING DISPERSED WITHOUT ADVANCE PLANNING IN VARIOUS LOCATIONS. (CONSUL IN TABRIZ REPORTS THAT IN LAST WEEK HE HAS OVERHEARD PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS COMPLAINING OVER TELEPHONE OF UNEXPECTED ARRIVAL OF GROUPS OF 40-60 KURDISH REFUGEES FOR WHOM OFFICIALS WERE EXPECTED TO PROVIDE LODGING, FOOD, AND EMPLOYMENT.) ABDUL-RAHMAN AND QAZZAZ ARE ANXIOUS TO GET MOVEMENT ABROAD UNDERWAY TO GIVE HOPE TO KURDS WHO WANT THAT OPTION. AS FOR SITUATION OF RETURNEES, THEY BELIEVE REFUGEES FROM NORTHERN KURDISTAN(I.E. NORTH OF VAGUE "AUTONOMOUS AREA" INCLUDING KIRKUK AND MOSUL) ARE STILL NOT ALLOWED TO RETURN THERE AND ARE BEING RESETTLED IN SOUTHERN IRAQ. QAZZAZ REPORTED THAT GENERAL BARZANI'S HEALTH IS REASONABLY GOOD AFTER HIS RETURN FROM THE US EXCEPT FOR

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CHRONIC HARDENING OF BLOOD VESSELS IN HIS LEFT LEG HE HAS SUFFERED FROM IN RECENT YEARS.
HELMS

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